

National Grid files permits to replace 48,000 cubic yards of sand this fall; Rep. Israel questions Army Corps about replacement at a Congressional hearing

Asharoken, NY – Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) and Asharoken Mayor Pat Irving announced plans for a major sand replacement effort for Asharoken Beach this fall. National Grid has filed an application for the necessary permits for dredging with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and with the Army Corps of Engineers to move 48,000 cubic yards of sand this fall – a massive increase from past efforts.

“Last October the Army Corps issued a decision directing National Grid to replace sand on Asharoken beach. For years I urged the Army Corps to rule on this matter and this week I asked them to enforce their own decision. Now we’re seeing results. National Grid has filed permits to replace 48,000 cubic yards of sand this fall. This is a huge step forward and I will continue to work with National Grid, the Army Corps and Mayor Pat Irving to see this process through,” said Rep. Israel.

“I am pleased to learn that National Grid is moving forward in complying with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directive to replenish sand on Asharoken beach. Although it is not all the sand necessary to restore our beach, it is a start. It also appears that National Grid is committed to doing the ‘right thing’ and abide by its promise to comply with the Army Corps’ directives as to its obligation to replenish sand lost to Asharoken beach as required by the power plant’s operating permit. On behalf of all the residents of the Village of Asharoken and the unincorporated area of Eaton’s Neck, I would like to personally thank Congressman Steve Israel, and his staff, for their continued efforts to keep the Army Corps and National Grid focused on this issue that is so important to our community,” said Mayor Irving.

In October 2009, the Army Corps came down with a long awaited decision and directed National Grid to place an annual average of 15,000 cubic yards of sand, as well as an immediate 25,000 cubic yards of sand on Asharoken beach contiguous to Long Island Sound.

On February 24, Rep. Israel questioned Army Corps of Engineers Lt. General Van Antwerp and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy about enforcement for the terms of the Army Corps permit requiring sand replacement for Asharoken..

For fiscal year 2010, Rep. Israel secured \$121,000 for the Army Corps to make improvements to the Asharoken seawall. For fiscal year 2009, Rep. Israel secured \$96,000 for the Army Corps to continue a feasibility study for storm damage reduction and begin preconstruction, engineering and design.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, which oversees the Army Corps of Engineers.